

## Rep. Baird Helps Secure \$14.6 Million for Northwest-based Defense Projects-Federal Funding Will Protect Troops and Create Local Jobs- (September 27, 2006)

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Brian Baird helped secure \$14.625 million for Northwest-based defense projects - including Vancouver-based nLight - in the final Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Appropriations Act that passed the House late last night.

"This funding will provide critical protections to our servicemen and women and help create new jobs throughout our region," said Congressman Baird. "As an avid mountain climber and outdoorsman, I was already familiar with the popular applications of these amazing hi-tech products. When I learned about the life-saving applications they could have for our troops in combat, I began vigorously advocating for the increased federal funding that will get them to our servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Congressman Baird helped secure funding for the following Northwest-based defense projects:

nLight's Lightweight Multi-Purpose Laser: \$5 million:

The \$5 million Congressman Baird helped secure for Vancouver-based laser manufacturer nLight will be used to develop eye-safe laser technology that has multiple military applications, including target designation, illumination, and imaging.

HemCon's Chitosan Hemorrhage Control - \$3.55 million:

The \$3.55 million Congressman Baird helped secure for Portland-based HemCon, a manufacturer of advanced medical technology devices, will be used to study the efficacy of compressed chitosan-based hemostatic bandages on burns. HemCon's chitosan bandages are already being used by the Army to treat severe external and internal bleeding sustained from combat injuries.

Chitosan is derived from chitin, a polysaccharide found in the exoskeletons of crustaceans. Chitosan-based bandages form a barrier to bacteria and show great promise in preventing bleeding, fluid loss, and infection resulting from burns.

The Army Surgeon General has requested that every soldier deployed to a combat zone carry a HemCon chitosan bandage in his or her first-aid kit.

In the House, Congressman Baird worked with Congressman David Wu (D-OR) to secure this funding.

InSport's U.S. Marines Base Layer Clothing - \$1 million:

The \$1 million Congressman Baird secured will be used to purchase anti-microbial, moisture-wicking base layer clothing for U.S. Marines working in cold weather conditions. This innovative, high-performance clothing is produced by Portland-based InSport, an international leader in athletic performance apparel.

In the House, Congressman Baird worked with Congressman David Wu (D-OR) to secure this funding.

Silver Eagle's Modified Light Tactical Trailer - \$300,000:

The \$300,000 Congressman Baird helped secure for Portland-based Silver Eagle Manufacturing will be used to design and manufacture modified Light Tactical Trailers, or tow platforms used to transport the military's new mobile field hospitals.

Silver Eagle's appropriation was part of a \$6.5 million package for the Future Medical Shelter System - a successor to the outdated field hospitals currently in use. Each Future Medical Shelter System is a self-contained field hospital with built-in power and supplies. Silver Eagle has been subcontracted by Mobile Medical International Corporation (MMIC) to provide tow platforms for transporting the medical facilities.

In the House, Congressman Baird worked with Congressman Ray LaHood (R-IL) to secure this funding.

Outdoor Research's Flame Resistant Contact Gloves - \$1.5 million:

The \$1.5 million Congressman Baird helped secure for Seattle-based Outdoor Research will be used to enhance the design of fire-resistant gloves for the Marine Corps that can withstand the effects of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and protect Marines' extremities in mountain and cold weather conditions. Outdoor Research's newly designed gloves will offer Marines protection without sacrificing comfort, tactility, or dexterity.

Aviators, border patrol guards, firefighters, police officers, and others may also be able to utilize Outdoor Research's fire-resistant gloves in the future.

In the House, Congressman Baird worked with Congressmen Jim McDermott (D-WA) and Norm Dicks (D-WA) to secure this funding.

Cascade Design's Individual Water Purifier System - \$2.275 million:

The \$2.275 million Congressman Baird helped secure for Seattle-based Cascade Designs will be used to develop and produce the Individual Water Purifier System (IWPS) for the Marine Corps. This critically important hydration system will enable soldiers to gather water from any source and purify it to meet EPA standards. It has been field tested by Marines in Afghanistan and is designed to integrate with a Marine's existing equipment.

Cascade Design's water purifier system is safer, less cumbersome, and more cost efficient than many of the current hydration methods utilized by the Marines, such as bottled water, chlorine and iodine pills, and pump filtration devices.

In the House, Congressman Baird worked with Congressmen McDermott and Dicks to secure this funding.

Cascade Design's Modular Military Steep Traction Combat Snowshoe - \$1 million:

The \$1 million Congressman Baird helped secure will be used to procure hi-tech snowshoes for Marines deployed in mountainous regions of Afghanistan. Seattle-based Cascade Designs produces the steep traction Denali snowshoes, which Special Forces in Afghanistan are already utilizing.

In the House, Congressman Baird worked with Congressmen McDermott and Dicks to secure this funding.

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